

Fall/Winter 2018-2019

AP/EN 2170 3.0A (F)

Horror and Terror: Variations on the Gothic

Course Director:

Maria Ionita

Delivery Format:

Lecture and Tutorials

Time:

Lecture: Friday, 10:30am-12:30pm, ACW 005

Tutorial 1: Friday 12:30pm-1:30pm, RS 101A

Tutorial 2: Friday 1:30pm-2:30pm, RS 101A

Tutorial 3: Friday 12:30pm-1:30pm, RS 104

Description:

Gothic horror, the critic Clive Bloom tells us, is about “that which should not be, whose comprehension is the end of the sanity and the opening of the abyss.” In other words, the gothic is about forbidden knowledge - scientific, occult, or personal - and its effects on the human psyche. In this course we will study several of the many iterations of the gothic, beginning with Horace Walpole’s *The Castle of Otranto* - a tale of ghostly hauntings and family secrets which first laid the groundwork of the genre. We will continue with two other major gothic authors: Mary Shelley and Edgar Allan Poe. Afterwards, we will discuss, every week, a new gothic theme - from vampires to witches, and from ghosts to doubles - before concluding with another haunted house narrative: Shirley Jackson’s *The Haunting of Hill House*. Along the way we will also learn some important concepts, such as the abject, the uncanny and the abhuman. Throughout the course we will study the man characteristics of the gothic as well as what accounts for its remarkable endurance and flexibility. We will also examine how the gothic has been used in the last two centuries to give voice to a variety of personal, social and cultural anxieties.

Category:

D

Historical Requirement:

N/A

Requirements:

One short essay (4-5 pages, double spaced, excluding bibliography): 25%

One long essay (6-7 pages double spaced, excluding bibliography): 35%

Tutorial participation: 10%

Exam (to be held the last day of class): 30%

Reading List:

At the York bookstore:

Shirley Jackson: *The Haunting of Hill House*. Penguin Classics, ISBN: 978-0143039983

Sheridan Le Fanu: *In A Glass Darkly*. Oxford UP: ISBN: 978-0199537983

Robert Louis Stevenson: *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. Penguin Classics.

ISBN: 978-0141023588

Online, on Moodle:

Gertrude Atherton, "The Striding Place"

Neil Gaiman: "A Study in Emerald"

Nalo Hopkinson: "The Glass-Bottle Trick"

M.R. James: "Lost Hearts"

Stephen King: "Gemma"

H.P. Lovecraft: "The Outsider," "The Color Out of Space."

Edgar Allan Poe: "The Tell-Tale Heart," "The Black Cat," "Ligeia," "Berenice," "Morella,"

"The Fall of the House of Usher"

J.W. Polidori: "The Vampyre"

Bram Stoker: "Dracula's Guest"

Film (watch on your own time):

The Witch. 2015. Dir. Robert Eggers.

Open To:

Year 2, 3 & 4